

## **THE JOHN LEWIS INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICATION**

The John Lewis Institute for Social Justice (JLISJ) seeks to empower a new generation of leaders to follow his call to build a better and more just world, one that is marked by hope and focused on liberation. In doing so, we find hope and strength in his efforts, voiced in the language of justice and lived in a life of service. Our collective work is designed to create intellectual and civic spaces to allow for a deeper understanding of the roots of injustice, while also fostering and nurturing efforts to eliminate it. We aim to do this by helping participants develop as social justice leaders and advocates and helping them explore opportunities in public service. We encompass the issues of all people and seek to work for the oneness of humanity. We take as our mandate Rep. John Lewis' observation and challenge that, "ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America."

### **GOALS:**

- Develop social justice leaders and activists.
- Engage with the campus and the communities around CCSU.
- Foster civic engagement and social change.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

- Must be a matriculated CCSU full or part-time student
- Can apply from any major
- Must have at least two years remaining at CCSU when one starts the Scholar program.
- May have a no less than a cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Should have experience engaging in some form of activism or social change/volunteer work
- Must be interested in: public service; civil rights; ending all forms of racism; food insecurity; social justice; mass incarceration; underrepresented populations and other activist activities that uplift humanity
- All races, ethnicities, nationalities and genders are welcome to apply. Students will be welcomed regardless of citizenship.
- Students must be able to fulfill all commitments, including bi-weekly seminars, campus and community activities, retreats, and Spring Break trips to receive all program benefits.

### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

To apply, email the following to Dr. Audra King, at [kingaul@ccsu.edu](mailto:kingaul@ccsu.edu) with the subject line, John Lewis Institute Scholar Application. Applications should be received no later than July 15, 2024.

1. Completed application (see below).
2. A two-page personal essay that will tell the committee who you are. Your essay should address the following:
  - Tell us a story that explains your motivation for participating in the John Lewis Institute for Social Justice. How does your motivation to become a John Lewis Scholar align with Rep. John Lewis's philosophy of social justice and activism? What issues of social justice are you most passionate about? What is your personal connection to this issue?
  - What experience do you have with social justice activism/volunteer work? How does this work represent inclusivity and social justice, across ethnicities,

genders, “race” and other identities? What have you learned from this work?  
How did you grow?

- What are your academic interests? How will the John Lewis Institute for Social Justice enhance your academic success?
  - What is one thing you think is needed to make CCSU more an inclusive community empowered by social justice?
3. Two reference letters: one from a faculty/staff and one from a community member who has knowledge of your activism.

**JLI SCHOLAR APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_

Minor (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ Years at CCSU: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

**TWO REFERENCES**

Reference #1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Reference #2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your references with the sheet below so that it can be returned to you.

**THE JOHN LEWIS INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REFERENCE LETTER**

Thank you for providing this student with a reference to become a John Lewis Scholar of the John Lewis Institute for Social Justice at Central Connecticut State University. The scholar will learn how to advocate for social justice embedded in the philosophy of nonviolence as practiced by Representative John Lewis.

Recommendation letters should address the following:

- How long have you known the applicant? In which capacity did you know the applicant?
- Please indicate how committed this applicant is to social justice and community change.
- How committed is this applicant to educating the public about social justice?
- What distinguishes this applicant from their cohort?
- What is your assessment of the applicant's ability to persist despite challenges?

Your Name:

Name of Applicant:

Please describe the applicant.